Financial steps

11. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

International Cooperation

12. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.

13. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing International issues related to tiger conservation.

14. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, with directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted as a decision with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

Reintroduction of Tigers in Sariska Tiger Reserve

15. A male tiger and a tigress have been reintroduced in the Sariska Tiger Reserve (Rajasthan), based on a recovery strategy suggested by the Wildlife Institute of India. The tigers are being closely monitored by radio telemetry.

Creation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)

16. The policy initiatives announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 29.2.2008, *interalia*, contains action points relating to tiger protection. A one time grant of Rs. 50.00 crore has been provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force. Action has been taken for the needful in this regard.

Polluted water in Assam

1903. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the areas where people used to consume polluted and fluoride contained water have been detected and investigated in Assam;

(b) if so, the details including detected areas;

(c) whether Government has formulated any permanent scheme to provide pure and potable water in those areas to protect people from serious diseases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per Assam Pollution Control Board (APCB), the presence of fluoride in ground water has been studied under a project in which ground water samples were collected and tested for fluoride. A total number of 449 habitations have been detected to be fluoride affected. The district wise break-up of these habitations are (i) Nagaon-358, (ii) Karbi-Anglong-48, (iii) Kamrup-36, (iv) Golaghat-4 and (v) Karimganj-3

(c) to (e) As informed by the Assam Public Health Engineering Department (APHED), alternative schemes through Surface Piped Water Supply Scheme (SPWSS) and Ring Well Water Supply Scheme (RWWSS) have been formulated to provide pure and potable water in the above mentioned areas. The following piped water supply schemes are also being taken by the APHED for mitigation of fluoride by installation of Flouride Removal Unit/Alternative Source.

District	Name of Scheme
Nagaon	Urdhagaon Gravity Flow Piped Water Supply Scheme (PWSS) Nilbagan PWSS Kanchanjuri PWSS Dijuvalley PWSS
Karbi Anglong	Longnit PWSS Ardeng Ingti PWSS
Kamrup	Mathgharia No. 1 PWSS

Wildlife Protection Act

1904. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Wildlife Protection Act is being amended to make provision for forest tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under Section 28 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Chief Wildlife Warden of State/UT Governments are already empowered for grant of permission for tourism.

Green house gases

†1905. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that emission of green house gases is causing change in climate and increase in temperature;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.